

Welcome to Bear Lodge Project EIS Scoping Meeting



Purpose for the Meeting

- Describe Forest Service Legal Framework and Decision-making Process
- Present the Proposed Bear Lodge Project
- Describe how the Public can Comment
- Answer Questions



PLAN of OPERATIONS

- May 2012 – first submitted
- May 2013 – FS accepted the Plan
 - FS begins preparing for the environmental analysis
 - December 2013 TetraTech was hired for the analysis
- February 2014 – modification of Plan for scoping
- March 28, 2014 – Notice of Intent was published



Forest Service Legal Framework

- Laws
 - 1872 General Mining Law
 - Environmental Laws
- Regulations
 - Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations
- Policy
 - Forest Manual and Handbooks
 - Forest Plan



What is NEPA?

- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended
- NEPA requires federal agencies to prepare an EIS on major actions, ...that significantly affect the quality of the human environment.
- NEPA requires action and project alternatives to be assessed and mitigation measures be evaluated.



Forest Service

Decisions to be Made

Forest Supervisor will decide:

- Authorizing Plan of Operation as proposed
- Authorizing the Plan of Operation with modification
- Forest Plan Amendments
- Land Use Authorizations
- Mitigations and Monitoring



Cooperators

- State of Wyoming
- Crook County
- Crook County Natural Resource District
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Additional Permits and Authorizations

➤ Federal

- US Corps of Engineers
- Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission

➤ State

- Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
 - Land Division
 - Water Division
 - Air Division
 - Industrial Siting Council
- State Engineering Office

➤ County

- Crook County



What is the Bear Lodge Project?

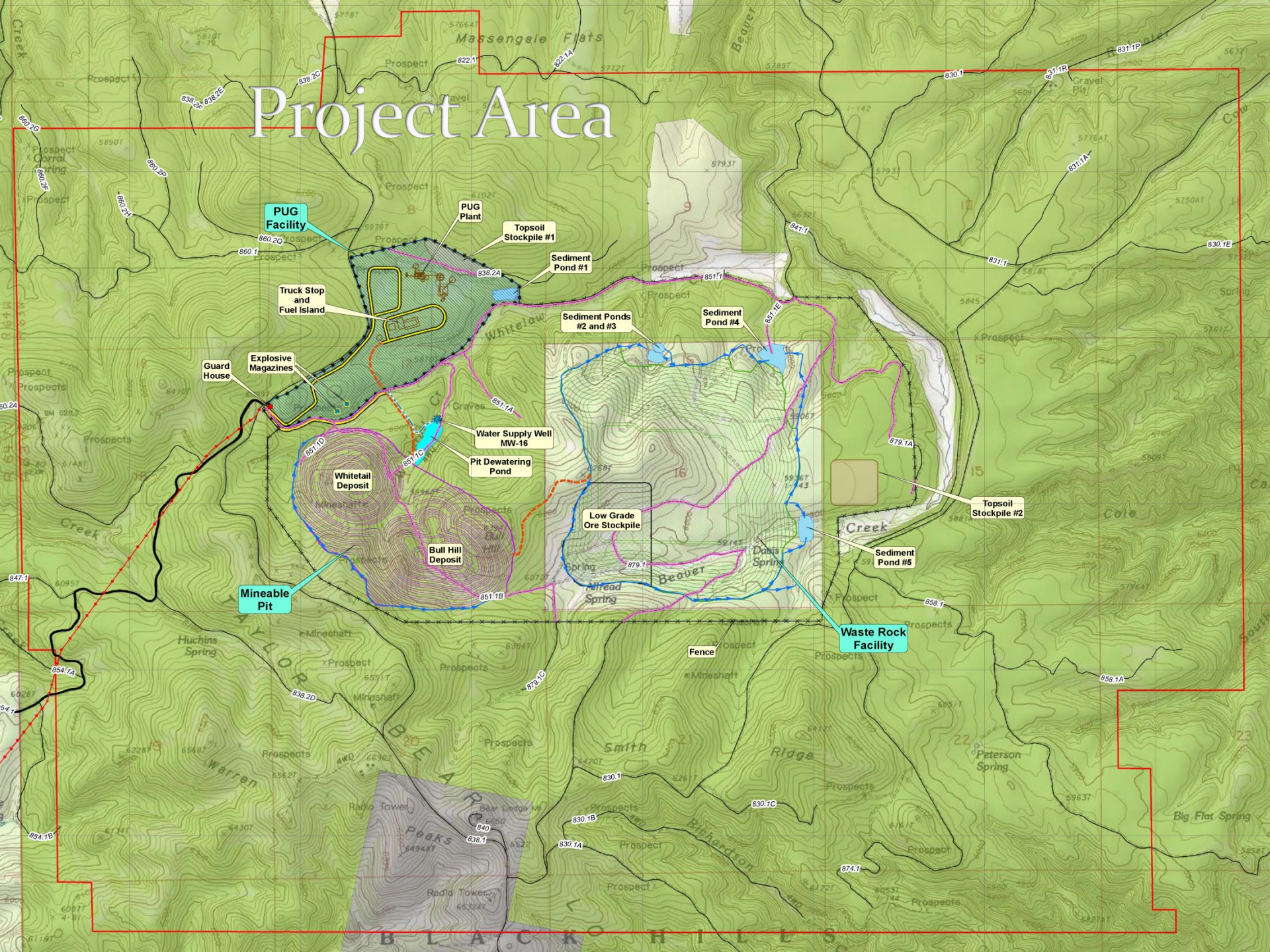
1. Construct and Operate a Mine:
 - Bull Hill Mine located 6 air miles north of Sundance, WY
 2. Continue Exploration Activities
-

Connected action:

1. Construct and Operate a Hydromet Plant:
 - 45 miles south of the mine area,
 - 2 miles outside of Upton, Wyoming



Project Area

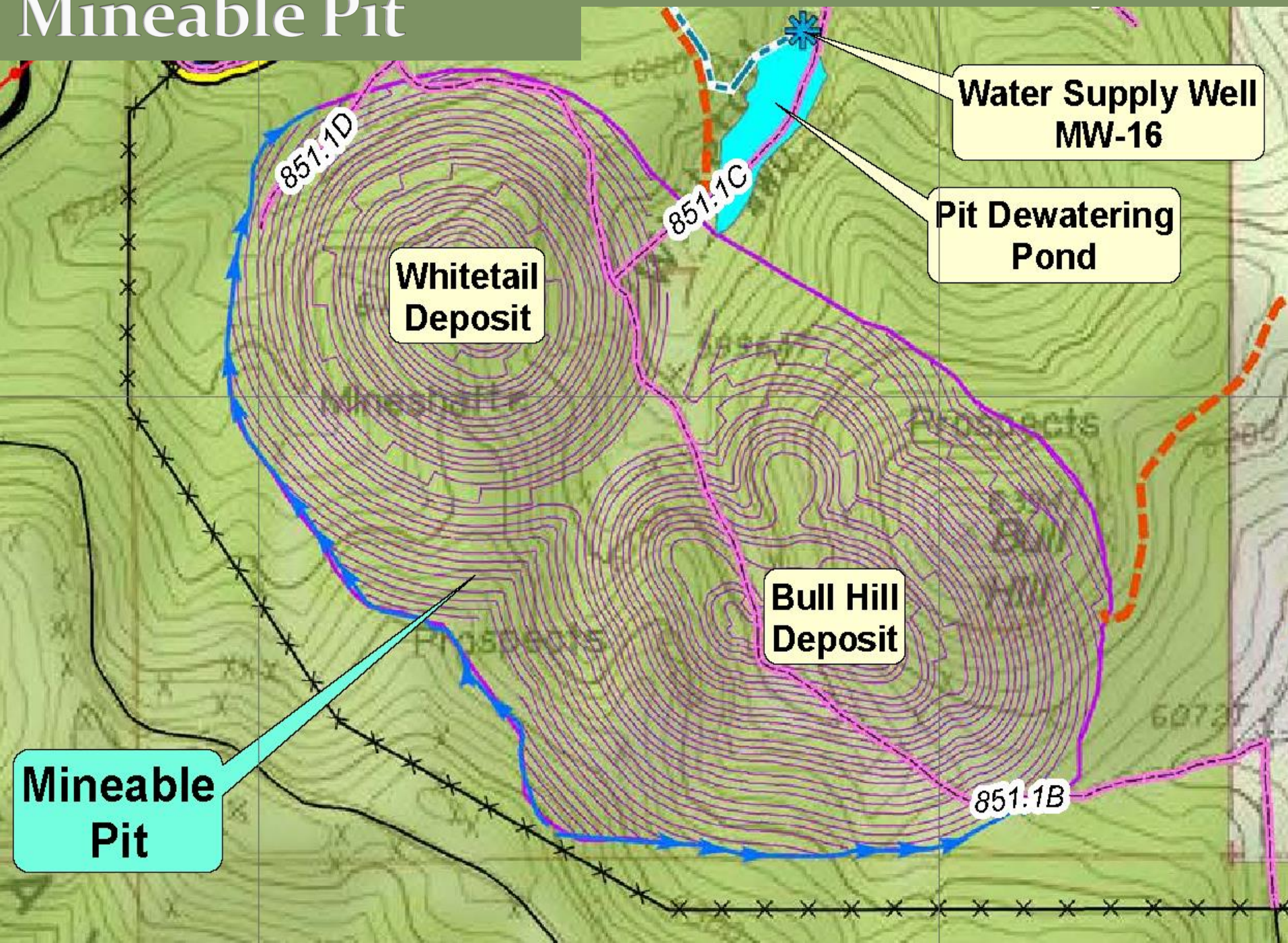


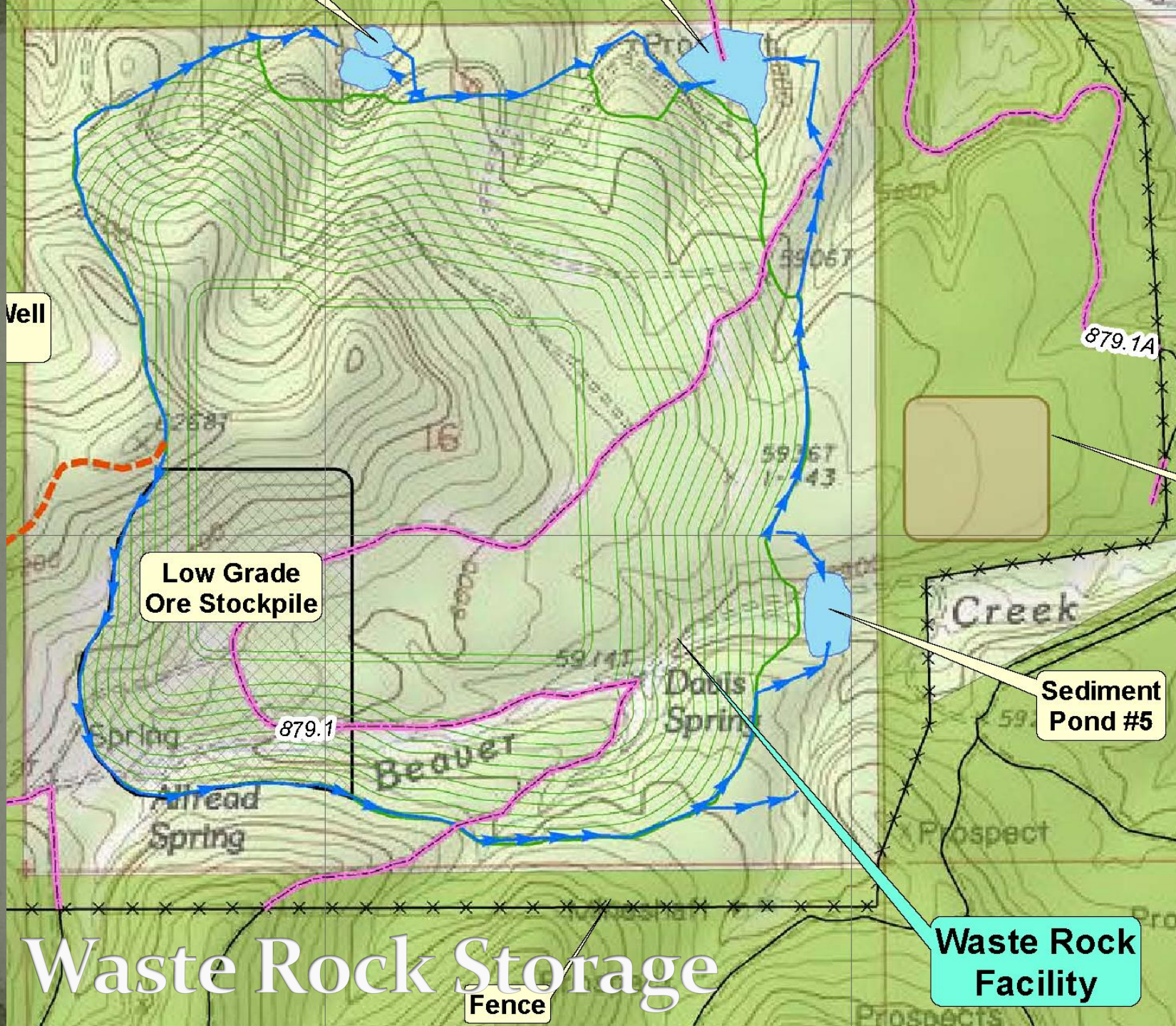


Aerial Photo of Bull Hill

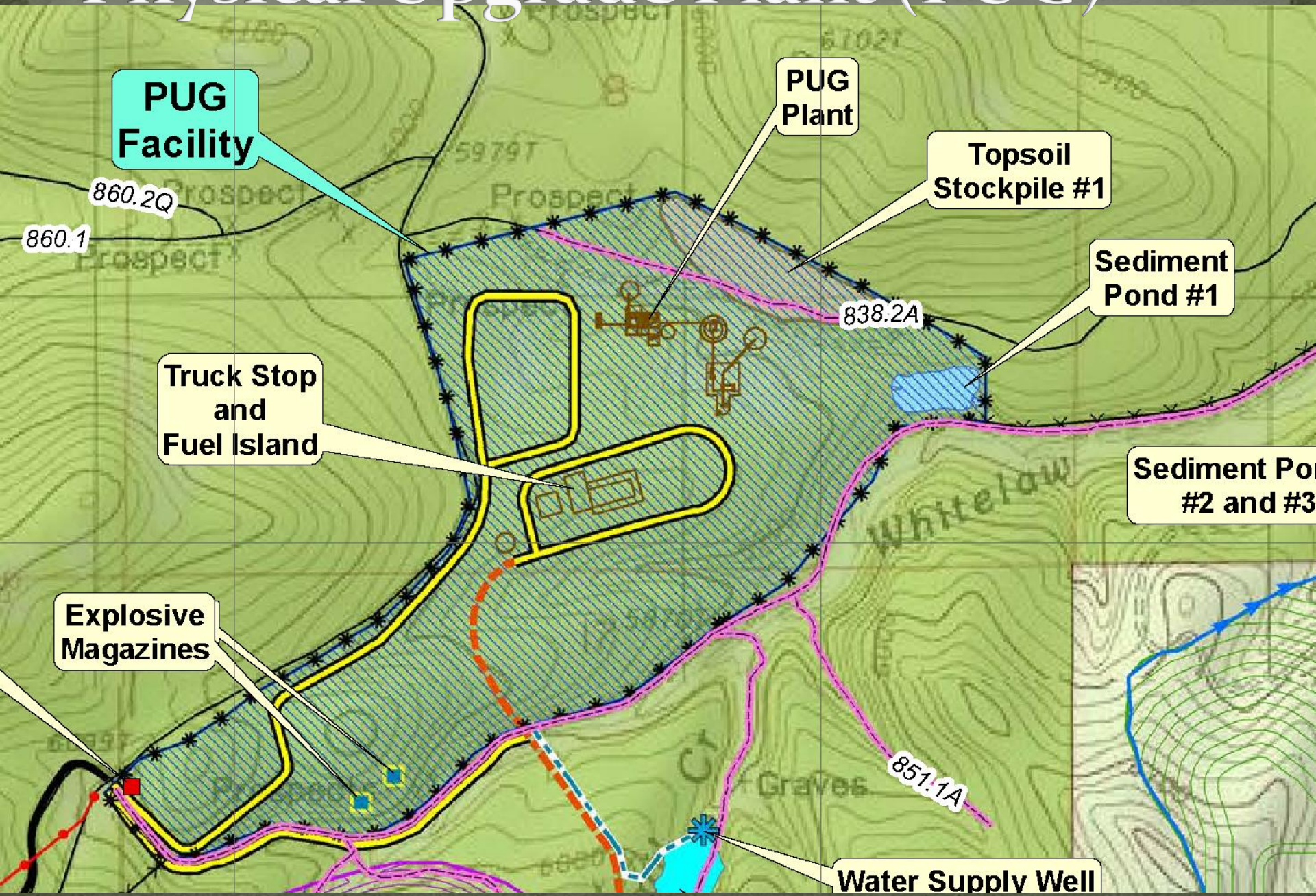


Mineable Pit



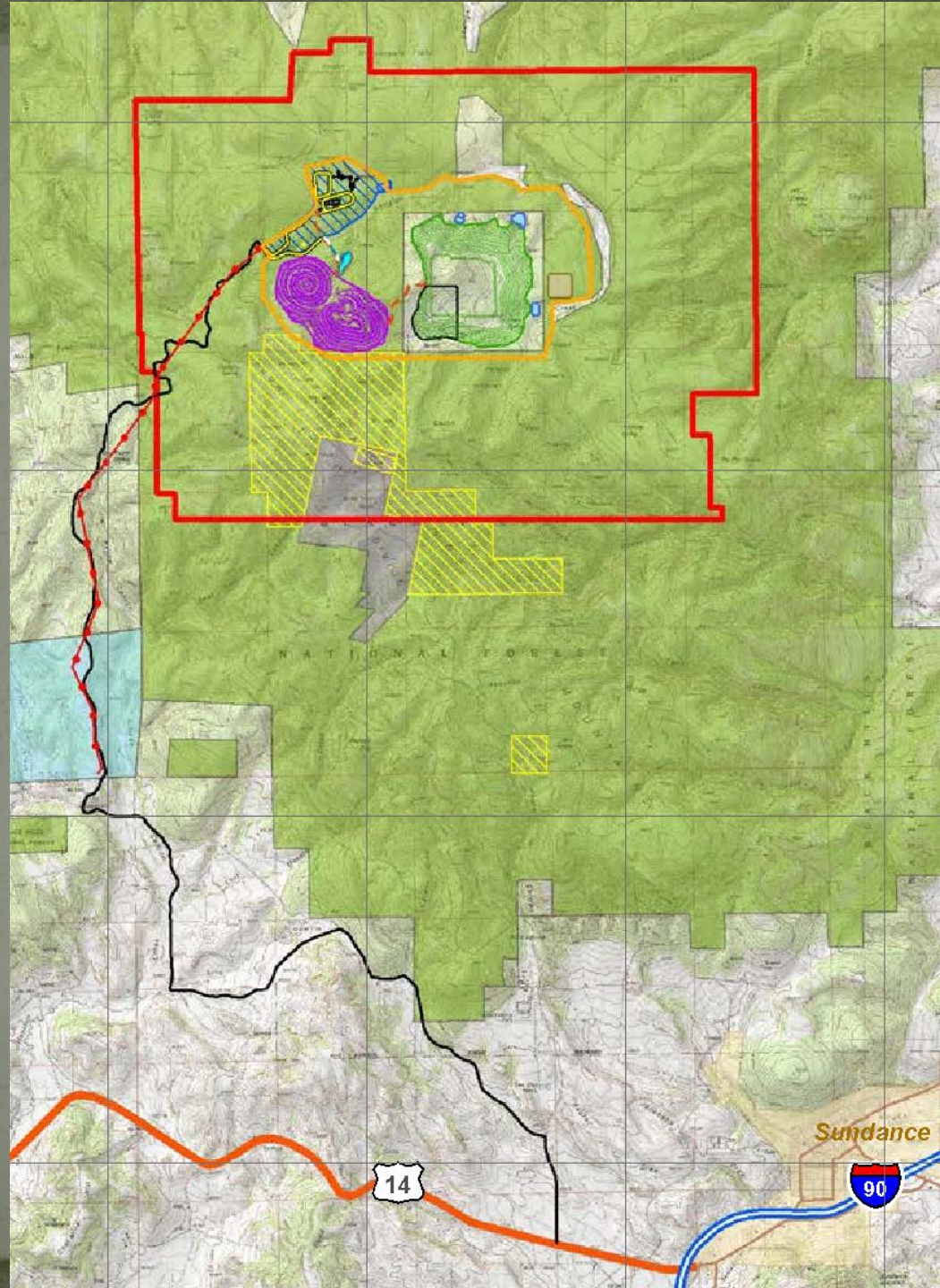


Physical Upgrade Plant (PUG)





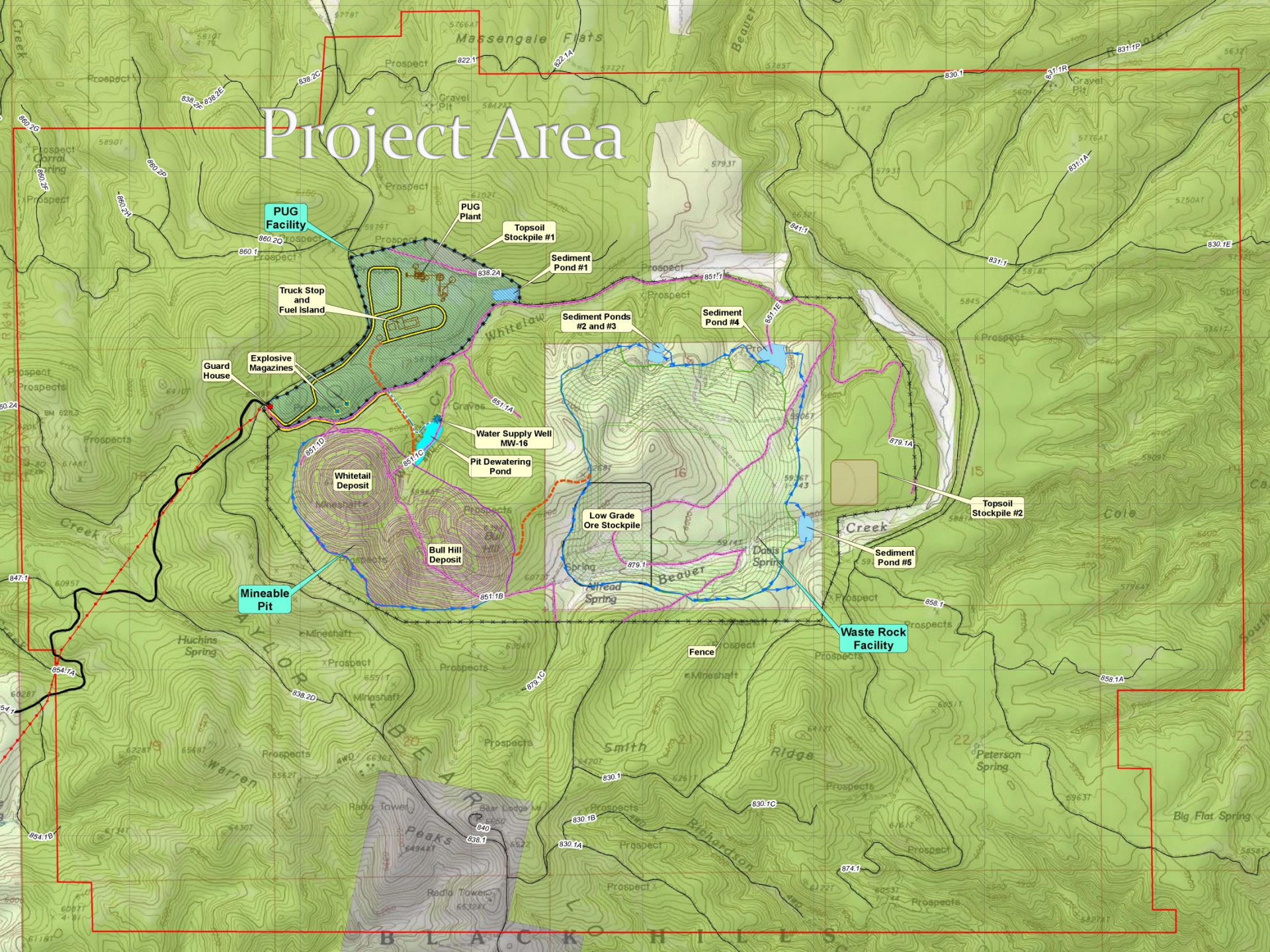
Miller Creek Access and Power line

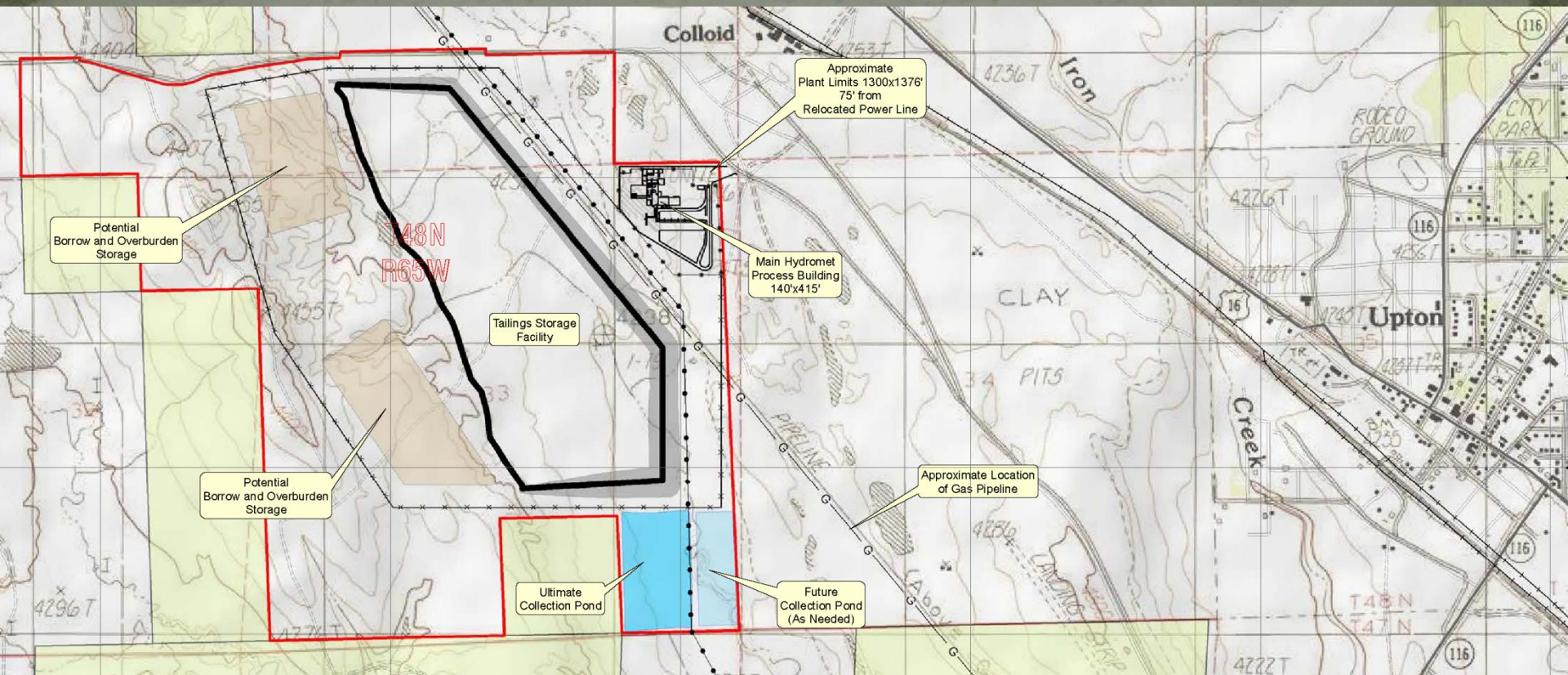


Exploration



Project Area





Mitigations and Monitoring

- Mitigation Activities are designed through effects analysis to minimize impacts to the environment
- Monitoring Activities are designed to continue evaluating project impacts on the environment
 - To continue until stabilization of soil, vegetation, and water quality is reached
 - Water and Air Monitoring Stations - 2010



Reclamation



- Ground disturbance
 - Top soil and sub soil stock piled for reclamation
 - Recontour to natural state – 3:1 slopes
 - Seeding and Mulching and Weed Management
 - Roads to return to pre-mining widths
 - Removal of some hydrology structures
- Reclamation and closure:
 - On-going during mining operations.
 - Final reclamation completed within 2 years of mining
- Pit Reclamation

EIS Timeline

April 2014	—	Scoping	← We Are Here
June 2014	—	Alternative Development	
October 2014	—	Impact Analysis	
Spring 2015	—	Draft EIS	
Spring 2015	—	Public Comment	
Summer 2015	—	Response to Comments/Final EIS	
Fall 2015	—	Draft ROD	
Winter 2015	—	Objection Period	
Spring 2016	—	Final ROD	



How Do I Submit My Comments?

Comments should be submitted in writing by **April 30, 2014**.

Comments should be submitted to:

Bear Lodge Project EIS
C/O Jeanette Timm, Project Coordinator
Bearlodge Ranger District
PO Box 680
Sundance, WY 82729-0680

- Written comments may left at the public meetings or
- emailed to:
comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-bearlodge@fs.fed.us, or
- via facsimile to 307-283-3727.



For more information on the Bear Lodge Project:

www.fs.usda.gov/main/blackhills OR

<http://tinyurl.com/BearlodgeMineProject>

Questions?

